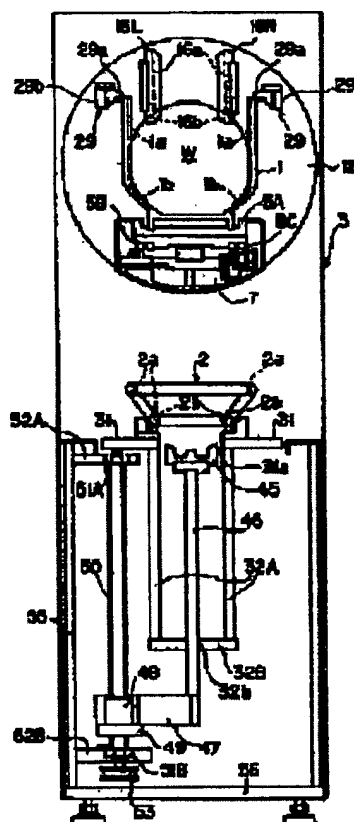


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- international:	H01L21/68; H01L21/22
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PURPOSE:To shorten the travel of a tabular body, and to reduce the generation of dust by providing a first support means mounted to a rotary means supporting a first tabular-body housing tool, a third reciprocative support means and a second support means guiding the tabular body to a second tabular-body housing tool when the tabular body is moved.

CONSTITUTION:A carrier 1, in which a wafer W is housed, is placed onto a carrier base plate 5A, and positioned at a specified position. A motor is driven, a turntable 12 is turned 180 deg.. Consequently, the wafer W, the carrier 1 and the carrier base plate 5A are turned upside down. A boat base plate 31, on which an empty boat 2 is placed, is lifted. The wafer W is guided to the grooves 16a of wafer retainers 16L, 16R and lowered, and a part of the periphery of the wafer is inserted into the groove 2a of the boat 2 and the wafer W is housed into the boat 2. The boat base plate 31 is brought down to an original position, and the boat 2 is also lowered to an original location. The turntable 12 is reversely rotated by 180 deg., and carrier retainer 29 release the carrier 1.



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